

House Republican Press Release

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Stone, Tymniak Say Proposed State Budget Hurts Fairfield County



Local Legislators Say It Will Tax More, Return Little

State Reps. John “Jack” Stone, R-134th and Cathy C. Tymniak, R-133rd said today it is apparent that many mayors and first selectmen have an over-inflated expectation of the proposed state budget. They said the \$31.7 billion two-year budget raised by the Democratic-controlled legislature will tax more and return little to towns such as Fairfield, and takes too much out of the pockets of families and escalates the burden on employers.

Reps. Tymniak and Stone said the budget would spend \$627 million more than the governor’s proposed spending plan and raise taxes \$1 billion more, much of it for programs that aid the state’s largest cities and not the smaller towns. The proposal also borrows \$100 million more than the governor in each of the next two years.

“This budget contains a lot of good ideas, but the legislature needs to reevaluate it,” said Rep. Stone. “The major newspapers in the state have heavily criticized this budget as irresponsible. It raises spending too much, it taxes too much and it blasts through the constitutional spending cap that 80 percent of statewide voters approved.”

“Once again Fairfield County is getting short ended,” said Rep. Tymniak. “Residents of Fairfield County pay more than one third of all state income taxes, but most local towns receive back just pennies on the dollar, in terms of state aid to support public schools and town services. The aid formulas are unfair and should be rewritten.”

Rep. Stone added, “Leading critics including the newspapers of the state have called this budget reckless and dangerous. Without some spending reductions, this budget is going to hurt the state economy, at a time when we are still recovering from the recent recession. Connecticut job growth and income growth are lagging behind the rest of the nation.”

Rep. Stone added, “History indicates large cities will be the big winners from more state spending, while smaller towns gain minimally. According to the Tax Foundation, we already are the most heavily taxed state in the nation. The only way to control taxes is to control spending at both the state and local level.”

Rep. Tymniak said, “Fairfield County is the engine that drives the state. If we do not have a business friendly environment, we will simply be pushing away employees, jobs and income for the state. The budget passed by the Appropriations Committee will hurt the economy and the middle class. We need a solid, sustainable financial plan to carry the state into the future.”